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Winner of the 2002 National Gold Medal Award



NEWS RELEASE

1001 Fourth Street Greensboro, NC 27405 www.greensboro-nc.gov/leisure

DATE OF RELEASE: November 10, 2004

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NAME OF PROGRAM: Simkins Indoor Sports Pavilion Rededication Ceremony

DATE/TIME: Sunday, November 21st, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

FEE: *Open to the Public!*

LOCATION: Barber Park, 1500 Dan's Road (located off East Florida Street)

DESCRIPTION:

On **Sunday, November 21st, 2004, 2:00 p.m.**, the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department will rededicate the George C. Simkins Jr. Indoor Sports Pavilion. The ceremony will include guest speakers, special presentations, A&T Alumni basketball demonstration and refreshments. One of the 10 recreation bond projects from the successful \$34,200,000 bond election in November 2000, the impressive structure spans 80,000 square feet, housing 8 competition tennis courts and 4 combination basketball/volleyball courts. In addition, a 40 ft. x 80 ft. multipurpose room is available on a rental basis for community use throughout the year. The facility also includes offices, locker rooms with showers, restrooms and a spacious lobby.

The pavilion was originally constructed when Barber Park opened in 1989. The fabric roof structure, called the "bubble," was considered to be state-of-the-art at that time. In 1998, the sports pavilion was named in honor of Dr. George C. Simkins, Jr. for his longtime contributions to the community and the nation. With an estimated life-span of 10 years, the "bubble" was to be replaced as part of the recreation bond projects when the ice storm hit in December 2002. In the wake of the destructive storm, the bubble lay in ruins, and the much-anticipated renovations began. The original "bubble" structure limited tennis and volleyball play to the months of November through March as the facility could not be air-conditioned. Today, the Simkins Indoor Sports Pavilion permits play, tournaments and community meetings year-round.

During the rededication ceremony on Sunday, November 21st, A.C. Stowe, Program Director for 97.1 QMG Radio and Busta Brown, Afternoon Radio Personality, will be on hand to present the City of Greensboro a check in the amount of \$25,000 to be used toward improvements to the Barber Park outdoor amphitheatre stage. This generous donation is the kickoff to a 97.1 QMG Radio on-air fund raiser to secure additional public donations to rebuild the amphitheatre stage. *Join us!*

For more information, please give Jan Meyers, Assistant Athletics Director, a call at (336) 373-2794.